

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8681

WHITE HOUSE

UNCLAS PARIS 07145

DEPT FOR A AND WE, VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE FOR
CAPTAIN HOWE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER) FR

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED REMARKS FOR AMBASSADOR RUSH AT
DINNER AT RESIDENCE, MARCH 21, 1976

1. MR. VICE PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED MINISTERS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

2. YOUR VISIT TO FRANCE IN THIS OUR BICENTENNIAL
YEAR, MR. VICE PRESIDENT -- LIKE PRESIDENT GISCARD
D'ESTAING'S VISIT TO AMERICA TWO MONTHS HENCE --
IS IN TRIBUTE TO A TWO-CENTURIES-OLD "SPECIAL
RELATIONSHIP" WHICH IS UNPRECEDENTED WITHIN THE FAMILY
OF NATIONS. ALL BILATERAL RELATIONS, OF COURSE, ARE
UNIQUE; BUT SOME -- TO PARAPHRASE ORWELL -- ARE MORE
UNIQUE THAN OTHERS. THE FRENCH-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP
CERTAINLY FALLS IN THE LATTER CATEGORY. WHILE THE
PHRASE "HEREDITARY ENEMIES" HAS HAPPILY LOST CURRENCY
IN RECENT DECADES, THE TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF
FRANCO-AMERICAN AMITY HAVE SURELY ELEVATED OUR TWO
COUNTRIES TO THE STATUS OF "HEREDITARY FRIENDS. THOMAS
JEFFERSON CARRIES THE HEREDITY PRINCIPLE EVEN FURTHER;
HE ARGUES SOMEWHERE IN HIS VOLUMINOUS CORRESPONDENCE
THAT FRANCE, NOT BRITAIN, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED THE TRUE
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"MOTHER COUNTRY" OF THE INFANT AMERICAN REPUBLIC. BUT

WHETHER FRANCE WAS MOTHER OR MID-WIFE TO AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE, THE AMERICAN NATION INHERITED THE FRENCH ALLIANCE AT BIRTH -- AND FOR TWO CENTURIES WE HAVE CHERISHED IT AS OUR BIRTHRIGHT. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE DETERMINED TO PRESERVE AND NOURISH THIS UNIQUE INHERITANCE. FOR TWO CENTURIES IT HAS WELL SERVED BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. IT SHOULD BE NO LESS SERVICEABLE IN THE DIFFICULT DECADES THAT SURELY LIE AHEAD.

3. NOW AS ALWAYS BETWEEN OUR TWO SOVEREIGN NATIONS, THERE ARE CURRENT MATTERS OF GREAT IMPORT TO DISCUSS, DIFFERENCES TO EXPLORE, POINTS OF VIEW TO PRESENT. BUT THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT, MR. VICE PRESIDENT, TRANSCENDS THESE DAY-TO-DAY CONCERNS, HOWEVER IMPORTANT THEY MAY BE. IT PAYS HOMMAGE TO THE ENDURING BONDS BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND AMERICAN PEOPLES -- BONDS FORGED IN COMMON CAUSE AND TEMPERED IN MUTUAL INTERESTS; YOUR VISIT IS A GAGE OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES TO THOSE BONDS; IT ARTICULATES AMERICAN GRATITUDE FOR FRANCE'S DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION TO OUR INDEPENDENCE TWO CENTURIES AGO; IT INVOKES THE INTERTWINING OF OUR NATIONAL HISTORIES EVER SINCE, AND THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF OUR NATIONAL DESTINIES IN THE YEARS AND DECADES AHEAD.

4. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
RUSH

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